

they're the hospital associations, whether they're the insurance companies, whether they're the pharmaceutical companies or whether they're the doctors who've practiced for many, many years. I think we can come up with the answer, and I think we can do it a whole lot better.

The final expression that I'll throw out there, Mr. Speaker, to you and my colleagues is the one that everybody has heard: "Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater." We are on the verge of doing that. That would be a horrible thing for this country to take a great health care delivery system that needs some tweaking and that we can do in a bipartisan way without turning it over—lock, stock and barrel—to the Federal Government. They do a lousy job at running a lot of programs, and I certainly don't want them deciding what needs to be ordered and to come between the doctor and the patient in the exam room.

With that, I'm going to yield back to Dr. ROE of Tennessee.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Thank you, Dr. GINGREY. Thank you for those comments.

I think one of the things that has concerned me the more I have watched this system and have watched this debate go on is, since I've been here, I've had one of the health care think tanks in my office about every week or so to discuss this issue, and it is incredibly complicated. That's why we cannot do it rapidly, because it is so complicated.

I'll now recognize my colleague from Georgia, Dr. PAUL BROWN.

Dr. BROWN.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. I thank you, Dr. ROE, for yielding me some time.

I want to make sure that the American people know what we're talking about. We on the Republican side are offering alternatives for the health care financing problems we have in America, and they are huge. People cannot afford to buy insurance. There are a number of people who are struggling just to have halfway decent health care insurance coverage, and that is a huge problem that we need to fix, and we need to do it as quickly as we can.

I agree with Dr. GINGREY, my colleague from Georgia, that we can fix that system. We need to, and we need to do it as quickly as we possibly can. Yet what's being proposed from the other side of the aisle, from the Democrat side, is to set up a Washington-based health care system where health care decisions are going to be made by some bureaucrat here in Washington, D.C. That bureaucrat will tell your doctor how he can deliver your care—what care he can give you and when he can give it to you.

What that's going to do is take away your choice. You may not have a choice of your doctor. You may not have a choice of what hospital you go to. You may not have a choice of whether you can even get some kind of procedure or a test or not. What it's

going to do is it's going to delay your being able to get those tests and those procedures even if the Federal bureaucrat says that you may have them.

We can't go down that road. It's going to destroy the quality of health care. It's going to destroy the health provisions that you're getting today as an American. I don't want that, and I'm sure you don't want that. I'm sure Dr. ROE doesn't want that. I'm sure no physician, at least on our side of the aisle, wants that kind of a health care system to deliver your health to you by some Washington bureaucrat. We've got to stop that, and it's up to the American people to do so.

We're offering alternatives, many alternatives. I know one of our colleagues I talked to today is introducing a bill tomorrow that is going to be a health care reform bill. Our health care working group is developing a plan. I'm developing one in my office also that's independent of everything else, but we need to develop a solution that is patient-centered, not Washington-centered. We need to develop a plan that gives the American people the choice—the choice of their doctor, the choice of their hospital, the choice of whether they get a procedure or not. It should not be made by some Washington bureaucracy or bureaucrat or Federal bureaucrat anywhere, whether it is in Atlanta—in my own State—or in Knoxville or anyplace else.

□ 1800

We've got to develop a health care system that is patient-centered to give patients the choices that they deserve and they desperately need. We, as Republicans, are going to give you that opportunity. The opportunity is not going to be available from the other side of the aisle. They're developing a socialized medicine program, a Washington-based health care system to give your health to you by some Washington bureaucrat, not by a doctor.

And the American people need to know that very clearly, Dr. ROE, because they have a choice. Is it a choice between a Washington-based health care system, or is it a choice of a patient-centered health care system where those decisions are made in the doctor-patient relationship? And that is what we're offering.

And I'm just encouraging the American citizens all over this country to write their Congressmen, write their Senators and demand a patient-centered health care system. Demand that our alternatives are heard.

NANCY PELOSI has blocked—she has been an obstructionist for every single alternative that we've offered whether it's for energy, whether it's for environmental issues, whether it's spending, whether it's straightening out this economic situation, as well as the health care solution. She has been an obstructionist. She's blocked every attempt we've made to deliver to the American people alternatives that make sense from an economic perspec-

tive as well as a market-based perspective.

So we need to give our plans the light of day. And the American people are going to have to demand that, Dr. ROE. It's the only way it's going to happen. And I encourage people to contact their Members of Congress and demand that we slow this steamroll of socialism, as I'm calling it, this rolling over—the financial services industry is rolling over the car manufacturing; it's rolling over now the health delivery system. And we, as Americans, need to demand that all alternatives are heard, that we have the time to put something in place that makes sense to give patients the choice that they need.

So I congratulate you for doing this. It's absolutely critical for the future of health care. If we continue down this road that the Democrats have taken, it's going to destroy the quality of health that we deliver as physicians to our patients, that you did as a practitioner for so many years and I have, also, for so many years. So I thank you so much.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Dr. BROWN, thank you for your comments.

And just to summarize and sum up. I think our time is just about gone.

This is just the beginning of this debate. It is a very important debate for the American people. We just got through a few of the principles tonight. We will continue those at another time.

But I thank Dr. BROWN for being here, and I thank the Speaker.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate concurs in the House amendment to the bill (S. 896) "An Act to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability."

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEINRICH). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1828

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HEINRICH) at 6 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.